

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal adapted to communicate via at least one communications system in a plurality of service increments, wherein the terminal comprises:
  - 5 a transmitter and a receiver for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively, via the at least one communications system;
  - a user interface capable of producing a user perceptible output; and
  - a controller capable of counting the plurality of service increments utilized by the terminal, producing a result based on counting the plurality of service increments,
  - 10 comparing the result to at least one threshold, and directing the user interface to produce the user perceptible output when the result is reaches the at least one threshold.
2. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user interface is capable of receiving at least one threshold, and wherein the controller is further capable of  
15 converting at least one of the threshold and the result to a common unit of measurement.
3. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the user interface is further capable of receiving a plurality of thresholds and wherein the controller is further capable of comparing the result to the plurality of thresholds and directing the user interface to  
20 produce a user perceptible output when the result reaches at least one of the plurality of thresholds.
4. A terminal according to Claim 2, wherein the user interface is further capable of receiving a plurality of thresholds and wherein the controller is further capable  
25 of converting at least one of the thresholds and the result to a common unit of measurement, comparing the result to the plurality of thresholds following the conversion, and directing the user interface to produce the user perceptible output when the result reaches at least one of the plurality of thresholds.
- 30 5. A terminal according to Claim 3 wherein the user interface is further capable of producing an audible tone as the user perceptible output.

6. A terminal according to Claim 5, wherein the user interface is further capable of producing a plurality of different audible tones and wherein the controller is further capable of directing the user interface to produce a different audible tone when the output reaches each of the respective thresholds.

7. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of service increments is expressed in a unit of measurement selected from the group consisting of:  
kilobytes;  
units of time; and  
units of currency.

8. A terminal adapted to communicate via a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) communications system, the GPRS communications system measuring service in terms of kilobytes, wherein the terminal comprises:

a transmitter and a receiver for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively, via the GPRS communications system;

a user interface capable of receiving at least one currency threshold and capable of producing a user perceptible output; and

a controller capable of counting the plurality of kilobytes transferred via the GPRS communications system, producing a result based on counting the plurality of kilobytes, converting at least one of the result and the currency threshold such that the result and the currency threshold share a common unit of measurement, and directing the user interface to produce the user perceptible output when the result reaches the currency threshold following the conversion of at least one of the result and the currency threshold to a common unit of measurement.

9. A method of audibly alerting a user of a terminal upon reaching a threshold during a given communications session, wherein the terminal is adapted to communicate via at least one communications system in a plurality of service increments, said method comprising:

transmitting and receiving signals via the at least one communications system;  
counting the plurality of service increments utilized by the terminal;  
producing a result based on counting the plurality of service increments;  
comparing the result to the at least one threshold; and  
5 producing a user perceptible output when the result reaches the at least one  
threshold.

10 10. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising converting at least one  
of the threshold and the result to a common unit of measurement prior to the comparison.

11. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising receiving a plurality of  
thresholds, wherein the comparing step further comprises comparing the result to the  
plurality of thresholds, and wherein the producing step further comprises producing the  
user perceptible output when the result reaches one of the plurality of thresholds.

15 12. A method according to Claim 10, further comprising receiving a plurality  
of thresholds, wherein the converting step further comprises converting at least one of the  
plurality of thresholds and the result to a common unit of measurement, wherein the  
comparing step further comprises comparing the result to the plurality of thresholds  
20 following the conversion, and wherein the producing step further comprises producing  
the user perceptible output when the reaches at least one of the plurality of thresholds.

13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein producing the user perceptible  
output comprises producing an audible tone.

25 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the producing step further  
comprises producing a different audible tone when the result reaches each of the  
respective thresholds.

30 15. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the plurality of service  
increments is expressed in a unit of measurement selected from the group consisting of:

kilobytes;  
units of time; and  
units of currency.

5           16.     A method of alerting a user upon reaching a level of expense during a  
given communications session, on a terminal adapted to communicate via a General  
Packet Radio Service (GPRS) communications system in terms of kilobytes, said method  
comprising:  
transmitting and receiving signals on the GPRS communications system;  
10       receiving a currency threshold;  
counting the plurality of kilobytes transferred via the GPRS communications  
system;  
producing a result based on counting the plurality of kilobytes;  
converting at least one of the currency threshold and the result to a common unit  
15 of measurement; and  
producing a user perceptible output when the result reaches the currency threshold  
following the conversion of at least one of the result and the currency threshold to a  
common unit of measurement.

20           17.     A computer program product for alerting a user of a terminal upon  
reaching a threshold during a given communications session, wherein the terminal is  
adapted to communicate via at least one communications system in a plurality of service  
increments, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage  
medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-  
25 readable program code portions comprising:  
a first executable portion for counting the plurality of service increments utilized  
by the terminal;  
a second executable portion for producing a result based on counting the plurality  
of service increments;  
30       a third executable portion for comparing the result to at least one threshold; and

a fourth executable portion for producing a user perceptible output when the result reaches the at least one threshold.

18. A computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising:  
5 a fifth executable portion for converting at least one of the threshold and the result to a common unit of measurement.

19. A computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising a  
sixth executable portion that is adapted to receive a plurality of thresholds, wherein the  
10 third executable portion is adapted to compare the result to the plurality of thresholds,  
and wherein the fourth executable portion is adapted to produce the user perceptible  
output when the result reaches one of the plurality of thresholds.

20. A computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising a  
15 sixth executable portion that is adapted to receive a plurality of thresholds, wherein the  
fifth executable portion is adapted to convert at least one of the plurality of thresholds  
and the result to a common unit of measurement, wherein the third executable portion is  
adapted to compare the result to the plurality of thresholds, and wherein the fourth  
executable portion is adapted to produce the user perceptible output when the result  
20 reaches one of the plurality of thresholds.

21. A computer program product according to Claim 19 wherein the fourth  
executable portion is adapted to produce an audible tone as the user perceptible output.

22. A computer program product according to Claim 21, wherein the fourth  
25 executable portion is adapted to produce different audible tones when the result reaches  
each of the respective thresholds.

23. A computer program product according to Claim 18, wherein the first  
30 executable portion is adapted to count the plurality of service increments that are  
expressed in a unit of measurement selected from the group consisting of:

kilobytes;  
units of time; and  
units of currency.